

January 23, 1923. I proceeded to Mount Holly, N.J., and interviewed Mr. Elias Parker.

Mr. Parker informed me that he had secured a statement from Jim Mills and Charlotte Mills. That Charlotte had sort of gone back on him. Charlotte said that Mrs. Gibson had gone to her home and told her a different story than that which had appeared in the newspapers; in fact Mrs. Gibson stated that she had not told all she knows. She (Mrs. Gibson) mentioned to Charlotte, that I (DeMartini) had been to her home and advised her that it would pay her better to keep her mouth shut. That Dr. Cooper is behind Mrs. Gibson. Charlotte also recants that part of the statement in which she had told me that when she got home at 10 p.m. on the night of Sept. 14, 1922, that her father was not home - She now states that she discussed the matter with her brother Danny, and that she has a clear recollection now, that instead of it being the 14th when she claimed that her father was not home, she should have said the 13th, and that her father is right when he states that he was home when Charlotte and Danny arrived. Mr. Parker further told me that Charlotte has told him in confidence, that a few years ago she was married to a fellow so that he might secure possession of some property. With reference to Jim Mills' statement, we have a copy of same.

Mr. Parker further informed me that a rumor was circulated including me in having said that, "I will clear up the case in about six weeks." Mr. Parker said that he would have to work this matter in quiet - He also informed me about the present Governor not having much use for Schwatzkoff, State Police Chief; and that last year a Grand Jury had started to investigate him (Parker) but before he got finished they came within a few votes of indicting the Prosecutor, whom I understand to be McCran. Mr. Parker also showed me a statement secured from Jim Mills on September 26, 1922, and another one from

Mills' brother Henry. This statement was made to Mr. Beekman, prosecutor of Somerset County, and the following discrepancies found: -

Jim Mills in that statement says that on Friday he searched the Church and waste-basket for notes thinking that his wife might have left one. He also says that ⁱⁿ statement that he read part of the letters, he remembers the words 'dearie' and 'honey' and that when he went through his wife's scarf he notices the letters - when asked how many of them were there, he said, "about eight or nine. (a very good guess for Jim Mills)

The synopsis of Mr. Beekman's entire questioning consists of trying to find out from Jim Mills the contents of the notes, and the home conditions of Jim Mills and his wife with reference to quarrels, but Mr. Beekman has been unable to secure from Mills that he and his wife quarrelled at any time, although he was questioned very much about this. I notice that Mr. Beekman at no time questioned Jim Mills with reference to those part of the notes where she (Mrs. Mills) states, "It is not safe to leave the notes, because he is around."

Henry Mills' statement in substance says as follows: - That he suspects that Eleanor and Mr. Hall committed suicide, and that although they might suspect his brother, he is sure that his brother is innocent; also that he had heard from his wife and his mother that there were rumors going around that Mr. Hall and Mrs. Mills were very friendly, and that he had made up his mind to speak to Mr. Hall about it, but forgot all about it. I did not place much importance in the other things which were mentioned in this statement.

Mr. Parker feels positive that Jim Mills has committed the crime - In order to impress me of his convictions, he called in his stenographer to show that her opinion was the same, and that Jim Mills was lying. It is possible that instead of Jim Mills going to the Church as he said he did, he might have went back to where the bodies were at about two o'clock in the morning. Mr.

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Parker further told me that in formulating a plan whereby he is trying to get Jim Mills in his confidence, and bring him over to Somerville, so that he might break him down and secure a confession from him. He then had me dictate to his stenographer, the different sentences which I had underlined, with reference to Mrs. Mills when she said, "I don't think it is wise to leave this one, so I will hide this from him. I may wait until he comes home, and then I will be sure that you get this," and a few other paragraphs. Mr. Parker told me that although Charlotte was balking, he had someone working on them over there, and that he would try to get her back. He also said that he was going to call Totten's and Beckman's attention to Dr. Cooper, and find out what interest he has in this case, and why should he be so interested in Mrs. Gibson and the Mills'. It is believed that Mrs. Gibson and Dr. Cooper are instrumental in putting different ideas in Charlotte Mills' mind.

At about 7 p.m. Detective George Totten of Somerset County, arrived and a conversation was had between Totten, Parker, Mr. Parker's stenographer, a young man by the name of Badiger, and myself.

Mr. Parker then handed Totten a copy of the statement he had taken from Jim Mills, and then had me relate to Totten the different sentences which I had dictated to his stenographer; he also had me tell what I had heard Spivick of the "International News" say on the night of Sept. 15, 1922, when I was at Jim Mills' house. Spivick insisted in having Mills go with him to see Governor Silzer inaugurated, and to urge the Governor on in the investigation.

Mr. Totten then described the positions of the bodies, when he arrived there, saying that Eleanor laid to the right of Dr. Hall, part of her body on his right arm and about twenty feet apart; she had a scarf sort of wound around her face, and the hat covering his head. That the course of Dr. Hall's wound was a hole about over the right ear or right temple and coming out below the

left ear, taking a downward direction - That Mrs. Mills has three such wounds in her head, taking a downward course; two at about the same angle as Mr. Hall's but coming out in the back of the head, and one in the forehead at about the right eye - Two of the bullets which were steel jackets, were inside of the skull, and one between the skull and the scalp; the bullets were not very much mutilated. He was unable to tell me whether it was a right or left-hand rifling. He said that Mr. Hall's Watch, Pen and Wallet are missing, and he thought that Schneider might have stolen them for the reason he has secured information that Schneider had gone to Philadelphia, on Monday, September 18th, 1922. That the bodies were discovered by Schneider and Pearl Bahmer in the following manner: - They were walking along the road when they noticed the two persons lying there, thinking they had fallen asleep, as a fire had taken place either that day or the night before, they walked past about fifteen feet, Pearl Bahmer said that she noticed blood, they both walked back, and someone said "they are dead." Pearl Bahmer got frightened and ran away going to DeRusse's Lane, and from there to Easton Avenue - Schneider did not follow her, but joined her at Easton Avenue sometime later. He said that Schneider had ample time to pilfer the bodies. The letters were not scattered over the bodies, but were lying between the bodies.

Mr. Totten said that on account of the people being 'New Brunswickers', after a few days he thought it advisable to have them assist in the investigation, and it was his impression as the investigation went along that the Middlesex County Officials were trying to cover the Hall family, and for that reason he suspected the Hall's. But since then he found out that State Trooper Lamb was associating with newspaper men down around the Hotel Klein; they gambled and drank together, getting Lamb fighting, and in that manner secured the information from him. Also that Detective David was handing out infor-

mation to a reporter by the name of Frank Roth, and he would not be a bit surprised that he was getting compensated for it. Also that before this case when David was a Newark Private Detective, he had David assist him on cases, and always thought very well of him, but since he has learned all this, he does not think so much of David. Another thing, at the beginning the case looked very easily solved, and for that reason the Middlesex people were very glad to get into it, but when the newspapers started to criticize, the Middlesex County Authorities did not hesitate to try to clear their own scores and fasten the blunder on the Somerset County Authorities. He then told me of one instance as to how the newspapers got a copy of the witnesses statements, which happened in this manner - Mr. Stricker was at his Deal Beach home, he and Beekman received a telephone message to hurry and go to Stricker's place; when he and Beekman arrived at Stricker's house, they found David there and a number of men, one of whom he now thinks was Van Realte. Mr. Stricker started to tell Beekman about the proposition that these men had offered, that they were experienced detectives and had worked on many of these cases and were very successful; that it would not cost them a cent and that they were willing to offer their services for nothing, also that it would be a good idea to let them work on this, and see these statements. Mr. Totten said that he did not like the idea and he called Beekman's attention to it, but as Beekman was the boss he could not stop it, so the statements were then turned over to these fellows who later turned out to be newspaper reporters, using Totten's own words, "That's how Stricker put it over on us."

Mr. Totten seems to be very much impressed that Jim Mills is guilty. In fact he told me that he does not believe Mrs. Hall did the killing, and as to Mrs. Gibson he says he never believed her story. I may further add that Parker told me that Mott and Mason are no longer in the case.

Mr. Parker told me that he would suggest that I keep in touch with
Hills as often as possible - The reason for this is to break down his moral.

Mr. Totten has impressed me as being a big good-natured fellow, and
willing to do what is right. I am quite sure that he is seeing things from
a different view point.

Mr. Parker instructed his man, Bediger to go to Philadelphia, to-
morrow, Jan. 24th, and canvass the pawn shops on the date of September 18,
1922, to see whether it is possible to locate Mr. Hall's Watch or Automatic
Pistol.